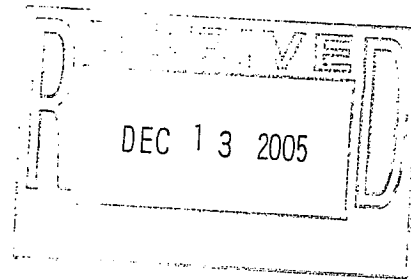




December 9, 2005

Dan Leavitt  
Deputy Director  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
925 L Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Thank you for sending the Notice of Preparation of a Program EIR/EIS for the Bay Area to Central Valley segment of the High-Speed Train system. Please accept these comments on behalf of Amtrak.

As we stated in our August 31, 2004 comments on the Draft Program EIR/EIS for the entire high-speed rail system, Amtrak supports the implementation of a high-speed train system in California. To restate our position as it applies to the Bay Area to Central Valley segment of the system, Amtrak:

- Supports the implementation of a system and technology that cooperates with and is compatible with existing and planned intercity rail systems;
- Supports station locations that directly connect with existing and planned intercity and commuter rail stations;
- Supports substantial improvements to the conventional rail lines for faster, more frequent and reliable service, as indicated in the California State Ten-Year Rail Plan. (As the Amtrak-sponsored California Passenger Rail System 20-Year Improvement Plan was completed in March 2001, much of the data has since been updated and memorialized in the most recent California State Ten-Year Rail Plan.)
- Supports continued collaboration as the Authority progresses in the planning, engineering, environmental documentation and construction phases, particularly as the implementation of the plan directly affects existing and planned intercity services.

We are pleased to see that all the communities listed as potential station locations to be further evaluated are station locations for Amtrak services (San Joaquin, Coast Starlight and Capitol Corridor) and/or commuter services. We strongly support shared stations where feasible to allow for seamless passenger connections, or locating the high-speed train stations as close to the Amtrak/commuter stations as possible.

As the Authority considers alignment options that assume sharing corridors and/or tracks with other passenger rail services, we urge the Authority to consult with us as to the potential impacts and possible mitigations to negative impacts to the existing and planned intercity rail service. We offer our expertise in assisting with your analysis.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation. Amtrak is participating in the Bay Area Regional Rail Plan and will continue to monitor these developments closely. Please feel free to contact me as the Program EIR/EIS progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth C. O'Donoghue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth C. O'Donoghue  
*Principal Officer – Corridor Development West*

cc: William Bronte, Caltrans  
David Hughes, Amtrak  
Gil Mallery, Amtrak  
Paul Nissenbaum, Amtrak  
Eugene Skoropowski, Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority  
Michael Stern, Amtrak